

For immediate release

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**Missouri's unemployment remains unchanged over three-month period**

JEFFERSON CITY -- Missouri's unemployment rate held steady at 2.8 percent in August -- one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. At the same time, statewide total employment decreased somewhat, reflecting normal seasonal changes that occur in late summer.

About 82,600 Missourians were estimated to have been jobless in August, virtually identical to the July estimate. Over the past year, this number has decreased by more than 18,000. In August 1999, the state's unemployment rate was 3.6 percent.

Data derived from the survey of employers shows that payroll employment in Missouri grew by about 15,500 jobs in August. Some of these changes are seasonal, for example the increase in state government employment that includes the effects of state colleges and universities gearing up for the new semester. Construction employment also continued to grow through the summer with a one-month increase of 3,400 jobs, reaching a new high of more than 151,000.

Other gains included more than 3,000 jobs in the manufacturing industry, reflecting employees returning to work from a model changeover in the automobile industry (up by 1,800 jobs) and a 1,500-job increase in electrical and electronic equipment. Service industry employment showed a net increase of 3,700 jobs. Business services employment grew by 6,000 jobs, while a number of tourist-related and other seasonal industries experienced dips that partly offset that large increase.

Over the past year, non-farm payroll employment has grown by more than 46,000 jobs, or 1.7 percent. In the goods-producing sector, construction employment grew by more than 3,000 jobs or 2.2 percent. This increase was more than offset by a decrease of more than 8,000 jobs in manufacturing employment, which was concentrated in aircraft, automobiles, printing, apparel and chemicals.

In the private service-producing sector, many of the individual industries in the service group experienced good growth. Personal services employment was up by approximately 5,000 jobs, while business services and amusement and recreation services each grew by 4,500 jobs. Social services employment grew by nearly 4,000 jobs over the year; engineering and management services experienced an increase of more than 2,000 jobs.

Government employment increased by more than 26,000 jobs in the aggregate since August 1999. Local government, which includes public schools, was up by 14,000 jobs. The federal government added more than 9,000 jobs from a year earlier, as many Census workers remained on the payroll. State government, including colleges and universities, grew by more than 3,000 jobs over the year.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES  
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES  
CURRENT MONTH (AUGUST 2000), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (JUNE AND JULY 2000), AND YEAR AGO (AUGUST 1999)

	AUG 2000	JUL 2000	JUN 2000	AUG 1999		AUG 2000	JUL 2000	JUN 2000	AUG 1999
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U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	Atchison	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.5
MISSOURI	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.6	Audrain	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.5
ST. LOUIS MSA	3.4	3.4	3.4	4.0	Barton	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.8
Franklin	3.9	3.5	2.5	3.5	Bates	3.5	3.4	3.3	4.4
Jefferson	2.7	3.1	2.7	3.3	Benton	4.7	4.7	4.8	5.8
Lincoln	2.7	3.1	3.0	3.1	Caldwell	4.2	4.6	3.3	4.5
St. Charles	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.4	Carroll	2.9	2.5	3.0	3.7
St. Louis County	2.3	2.2	2.3	3.1	Cedar	3.1	2.9	2.6	4.6
Warren	2.5	2.3	2.4	3.1	Chariton	3.6	3.8	3.2	4.0
St. Louis City	5.9	5.2	5.4	7.5	Clark	3.5	5.2	3.4	4.3
KANSAS CITY MSA	2.8	2.7	2.8	3.0	Cooper	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.8

Cass	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.8	Crawford	5.3	5.0	4.4	4.2
Clay	1.6	1.9	1.7	2.3	Dade	3.3	3.3	4.0	3.3
Clinton	2.3	2.6	2.2	3.5	Dallas	5.9	4.8	4.6	4.2
Jackson	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.9	Daviess	2.5	2.2	2.2	2.4
Lafayette	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.9	DeKalb	2.2	2.2	2.4	3.4
Platte	1.5	1.5	1.7	2.0	Dent	4.6	4.7	5.4	5.5
Ray	3.1	3.9	3.8	3.9	Douglas	3.9	3.3	4.8	6.4
SPRINGFIELD MSA	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.5	Dunklin	4.5	3.9	3.6	5.5
Christian	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.5	Gasconade	2.8	3.4	2.3	2.8
Greene	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.4	Gentry	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.6
Webster	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.8	Grundy	2.3	2.5	2.2	3.3
JOPLIN MSA	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.9	Harrison	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9
Jasper	2.5	2.4	2.7	3.0	Henry	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.1
Newton	4.4	4.7	3.6	5.6	Hickory	5.7	5.8	4.6	5.3
COLUMBIA MSA	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	Holt	2.7	2.8	2.7	4.2
Boone	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	Howard	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.5
ST. JOSEPH MSA	2.4	2.6	2.6	3.3	Iron	5.8	5.9	6.2	6.9
Andrew	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.9	Johnson	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.3
Buchanan	2.4	2.7	2.7	3.4	Knox	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.9
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.2	Laclede	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.9
Adair	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.9	Lewis	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.8
Schuyler	2.8	2.7	2.8	4.0	Linn	7.0	5.6	5.0	7.0
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.2	Livingston	1.8	1.6	1.7	2.2
Butler	4.3	4.0	4.4	4.0	McDonald	3.7	3.6	3.2	5.6
Carter	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.5	Macon	3.4	4.3	3.6	3.8
Ripley	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.8	Madison	5.3	6.1	5.4	5.8
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	2.4	2.5	2.5	3.1	Mercer	2.0	2.2	2.2	3.7
Camden	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.9	Monroe	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.2
Miller	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.4	Montgomery	3.0	3.6	3.3	4.5
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.9	Morgan	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.9
Bollinger	3.9	3.9	3.5	4.1	Nodaway	0.9	1.5	1.1	1.2
Cape Girardeau	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.7	Ozark	2.8	2.5	3.0	3.9
Mississippi	4.4	4.3	4.4	6.1	Pemiscot	5.6	5.4	5.1	7.5
New Madrid	4.3	4.6	4.4	6.4	Perry	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.2
Scott	3.5	3.7	3.7	4.4	Pettis	2.8	3.1	3.1	4.5
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	2.4	2.6	2.5	3.1	Pike	3.7	3.6	3.1	4.2
Callaway	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.9	Polk	2.3	2.1	2.2	3.4
Cole	2.4	2.6	2.2	2.9	Pulaski	4.3	4.4	4.9	7.1
Moniteau	2.3	2.9	2.7	3.2	Putnam	2.3	2.0	2.0	3.3
Osage	3.0	3.0	4.2	4.2	Randolph	3.9	5.1	4.0	4.8
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	2.9	2.7	2.9	4.3	Reynolds	6.0	5.2	5.8	4.2
Howell	2.8	2.7	2.9	4.2	St. Clair	3.4	3.5	3.7	4.1
Oregon	2.9	2.9	3.0	4.3	Ste. Genevieve	2.9	3.3	3.3	4.0
Shannon	3.3	3.0	2.9	4.5	Saline	2.4	2.5	2.6	3.5
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	2.4	2.4	2.7	3.5	Scotland	1.6	1.6	2.2	2.5
Barry	2.2	2.1	2.4	3.6	Shelby	5.3	4.9	4.9	6.3
Lawrence	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.4	Stoddard	3.2	4.0	3.3	4.5
MARION-RALLS LMA	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.4	Stone	2.4	2.4	3.1	3.4
Marion	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.4	Sullivan	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.4
Ralls	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.5	Taney	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.3
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.0	Texas	5.2	5.3	5.6	10.3
Maries	3.5	3.9	3.2	4.6	Vernon	2.8	2.5	2.8	3.1
Phelps	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.7	Wayne	6.4	5.9	6.6	7.1
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	5.4	5.9	5.4	7.3	Worth	3.9	4.5	4.2	3.7
St. Francois	5.2	5.5	5.2	7.2	Wright	4.3	4.4	4.1	5.2
Washington	6.1	6.9	5.8	7.5					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.

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